

(a) at least first and second servers operative to simultaneously process at least first and second user requests, respectively, each of the first and second servers applying substantially the same application at substantially the same time;

(b) a switch operatively connected to at least the first and second servers;

(c) a data storage device operatively connected to the switch; and

(d) wherein data stored in the data storage device is associated with the application.

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10. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein the switch comprises a switch with at least first and second interfaces for each of said servers and the data storage device, the switch operatively connected between the servers and the data storage device.

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17. (Amended) The system of Claim 1 further comprising a load balancer operatively connected to the first and second servers.

18. (Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one of the at least first and second servers.

19. (Twice Amended) A system for providing network processing and stored data access, the system comprising:

(a) at least first and second sets of servers, each of the sets comprising at least two servers operative to simultaneously process at least two user requests, respectively, each of the two servers applying substantially the same application at substantially the same time;

(b) at least first and second switches, each switch operatively connected to each of the servers in each of the sets;

(c) at least two data storage servers operatively connected to each of the first and second switches; and

(d) wherein data stored in the data storage devices is associated with the application of at least one set of servers.

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20. (Amended) The system of Claim 19 wherein the application for each set of servers comprises an application selected from the group of: a mail application, a news application, a directory application, a content application, a groupware application, and an internet protocol (IP) service.

21. (Amended) The system of Claim 20 wherein the application for each set of servers is associated with a plurality of users.

22. (Amended) The system of Claim 19 wherein each of the operative connections from each of the servers to each switch and each of the operative connections from each of the data storage servers to each switch comprises a duplicative operative connection.

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29. (Amended) The system of Claim 19 further comprising a load balancer operatively connected to each of the sets of servers.

30. (Amended) The system of Claim 29 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one server of one of the sets.

31. (Twice Amended) A method for providing network processing and stored data access, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) applying substantially the same application on each of at least first and second servers at substantially the same time;
  - (b) inputting a plurality of data requests associated with the application, a first and second data request input into the first and second servers, respectively;
  - (c) generating in response to the first and second data request first and second queries, respectively, with the first and second servers, respectively; and
  - (d) switching the first and second queries to a data storage device operatively connected to each of the first and second servers.

32. (Amended) The method of Claim 31 further comprising the step (e) of providing a response to the first and second queries data from the data storage device to the first and second servers, respectively.

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35. (Amended) The method of Claim 31 wherein the step (b) comprises routing each of the plurality of data requests to the one of the first and second servers corresponding to the server with the least load.

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38. (Amended) A system for providing network processing and stored data access, the system comprising:

- (a) at least a first server applying an application;
- (b) a switch operatively connected to the first server;
- (c) at least first, second and third data storage servers operatively connected to the switch;

(d) wherein the first, second and third data storage servers provide output data at substantially a same time to the first server; and

(e) wherein data stored on the first data storage server is mirrored in part on the second data storage server and in part on the third data storage server.

39. (Amended) The system of Claim 38 wherein:

the server generates a plurality of queries for stored data in response a plurality of requests from at least one user;

at least one of said plurality of queries is switched to the first data storage server;

at least another of said plurality of queries is switched to the second data storage server;

and

the output data is provided in response to the queries.

40. (Amended) The system of Claim 38 further comprising:

(e) at least a second server applying the application; and

(f) a load balancer operatively connected to the first and servers.

41. (Amended) The system of Claim 40 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one of the first and second servers to process a user request.

42. (Amended) The system of Claim 38 wherein the data stored on the first data storage server comprises first server configuration data.

44. (Amended) A method for providing network processing and stored data access, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at least first, second and third user requests at a first server;

(b) applying an application in response to each of the first, second and third requests with the first server;

(c) generating first, second and third queries for stored data in response to applying the application to the first, second and third requests, respectively;

31 (d) switching the first, second and third queries to at least a first, second and third source of stored data, respectively, the first, second and third sources comprising mirrored data;

(e) mirroring data stored in the first source in part in the second source and in part in the third source; and

(f) providing first, second, and third output data at substantially a same time in response to the first, second and third queries, respectively, from the first, second and third sources, respectively to the server.

45. (Amended) The method of Claim 44 wherein the step (a) comprises routing each of the first, second and third requests to the one of the first and a second servers with the least load, the first and second servers applying the application.

46. (Amended) The method of Claim 44 further comprising step (g) of storing server configuration data on at least one of the first, second and third sources of stored data.

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38 48. (Twice Amended) A system for providing network processing and stored data access, the system comprising:

(a) at least first and second servers operative to simultaneously process at least first and second user requests, respectively, each of the first and second servers applying substantially the same application at substantially the same time;

(b) a load balancer operatively connected to the first and second servers;

(c) a switch operatively connected to the first and second servers;

(d) at least first and second sources of stored data operatively connected to the switch, the first and second source comprising mirrored data; and

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(e) wherein the first and second source of stored data provide output data at substantially a same time to the first and second servers for the application.

49. (Amended) The system of Claim 48 wherein:

at least one of the first and second servers generates a plurality of queries for stored data in response a plurality of requests from at least one user;

at least one query is switched to the first source of stored data;

at least another query is switched to the second source of stored data; and

the output data is provided in response to the queries.

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51. (Amended) The system of Claim 48 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one of the first and second servers to process a user request.

52. (Amended) The system of Claim 48 wherein the data stored on at least the first source of stored data comprises first server configuration data.

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54. (Twice Amended) A method for providing network processing and stored data access, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) load balancing at least first and second user requests between at least first and second servers, respectively;

(b) applying substantially the same application in response to each of the first and second requests with the first and second servers;

(c) generating first and second queries for stored data in response to applying the application to the first and second requests, respectively;

(d) switching the first and second queries to at least first and second sources of stored data, respectively, the first and second sources comprising mirrored data; and

B10 (e) providing first and second output data at substantially a same time in response to the first and second queries, respectively, from the first and second sources, respectively to the first and second servers.

55. (Amended) The method of Claim 54 wherein the step (a) comprises routing each of the first and second requests to the one of the first and second servers with the least load.

56. (Amended) The method of Claim 54 further comprising step (f) of storing server configuration data on at least one of the first and second sources of stored data.

B11 59. (Amended) A system for providing network processing and stored data access, the system comprising:

(a) at least a first server applying an application;

(b) a switch operatively connected to the first server;

(c) at least first and second source of stored data operatively connected to the switch, the first and second source comprising mirrored data;

(d) a hub operatively connected to the first and second sources of stored data and the switch; and

(e) wherein the first and second source of stored data provide output data at substantially a same time to the first server and provide status data to the switch and the hub.

60. (Amended) The system of Claim 59 wherein:

the first server generates a plurality of queries for stored data in response a plurality of requests from at least one user;

at least one of said plurality of queries is switched to the first source of stored data;

at least another of said plurality of queries is switched to the second source of stored data;

and

the output data is provided in response to the queries.

61. (Amended) The system of Claim 59 further comprising:

(f) at least a second server applying the application; and

(g) a load balancer operatively connected to the first and second servers.

62. (Amended) The system of Claim 61 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one of the first and second servers to process a user request.

63. (Amended) The system of Claim 59 wherein the data stored on the first data storage server comprises first server configuration data.

65. (Amended) A method for providing network processing and stored data access, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at least first and second user requests at a first server;

(b) applying an application in response to each of the first and second requests with the first server;



(c) generating first and second queries for stored data in response to applying the application to the first and second requests, respectively;

(d) switching the first and second queries to at least a first and second source of stored data, respectively, the first and second sources comprising mirrored data;

B12 (e) providing first and second output data at substantially a same time in response to the first and second queries, respectively, from the first and second sources, respectively, to the first server; and

(f) providing operation signals from each of the first and second sources of stored data to a switch and a hub.

66. (Amended) The method of Claim 65 wherein the step(a) comprises routing each of the first and second requests to one of the first and a second servers with the least load, the first and second servers applying the application.

67. (Amended) The method of Claim 65 further comprising step (g) of storing server configuration data on at least one of the first and second sources of stored data.

B13 69. (Amended) A system for providing network processing and stored data access, the system comprising:

(a) at least a first server applying an application;

(b) a switch operatively connected to the first server;

(c) at least first and second sources of stored data operatively connected to the switch, data of the first and second source comprising mirrored server configuration data; and

(d) wherein the first and second source of stored data provide output data at substantially a same time to the first server for the application.

70. (Amended) The system of Claim 69 wherein:

the server generates a plurality of queries for stored data in response a plurality of requests from at least one user;

at least one of said plurality of queries is switched to the first source of stored data;

at least another of said plurality of queries is switched to the second source of stored data;

and

the output data is provided in response to the queries.

71. (Amended) The system of Claim 69 further comprising:

(e) at least a second server applying the application; and

(f) a load balancer operatively connected to the first and second servers.

72. (Amended) The system of Claim 71 wherein the load balancer comprises a processor operative to select one of the first and second servers to process a user request.

75. (Amended) A method for providing network processing and stored data access, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at least first and second user requests at a first server;

(b) applying an application in response to each of the first and second requests with the first server;

(c) generating first and second queries for stored data in response to applying the application to the first and second requests, respectively;

(d) switching the first and second queries to at least a first and second source of stored data, respectively, the first and second sources comprising mirrored data;

(e) providing first and second output data at substantially a same time in response to the first and second queries, respectively, from the first and second sources, respectively to the server; and

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(f) storing server configuration data on at least one of the first and second sources of stored data.

76. (Amended) The method of Claim 75 wherein the step (a) comprises routing each of the first and second requests to the one of the first and a second servers with the least load, the first and second servers applying the application.

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